

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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TAGS: EAGR, UN, FAO, AORG

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (WFC)--

DISCUSSION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MARTIN AND EC COMMISSIONER

LARDINOIS

REF: STATE 7206

1. SUMMARY: DURING A VISIT TO BRUSSELS, AMBASSADOR MARTIN

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EXPLAINED TO EC COMMISSIONER LARDINOIS US AIMS AND TACTICS

FOR THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. COMMISSIONER LARDINOIS INDICATED THAT THE EC IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE CONFERENCE, BUT WOULD COOPERATE, SINCE THE US HAD INITIATED THE PROPOSAL. LARDINOIS BELIEVES THAT IN ADDITION TO GRAINS, RICE AND FISH, THE CONFERENCE SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER SUGAR, MILK PRODUCTS, AND FATS AND OILS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 4 AMBASSADOR EDWIN MARTIN, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR GREENWALD, DISCUSSED US PLANS FOR THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WITH EC COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURE, LARDINOIS, LARDINOIS' CHEF DE CABINET, WIJNMALEN AND EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE, RABOT. AMBASSADOR MARTIN EXPLAINED THE US VIEW ALONG THE LINES OF REFTEL, STRESSING SOME OF THE IMMEDIATE FOOD SCARCITY PROBLEMS THAT NOW FACE US. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MAKE SURE THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS CLEARLY A FOOD CONFERENCE NOT A TRADE OR POPULATION CONFERENCE, THOUGH HE RECOGNIZED THAT CERTAIN LDCS WOULD TRY TO EXPAND THE AGENDA. HE SAID THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE ABLE TO AGREE ONLY ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES. NEGOTIATIONS ON ACTUAL GOVERNMENTAL COMMITMENTS IN THE FIELDS OF STOCKPILING, FOOD AID AND FREER TRADE IN FOOD WOULD HAVE TO TAKE PLACE IN THE MTN. HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME SUGGESTIONS FOR A POSSIBLE EUROPEAN CHAIRMAN OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE US FELT THAT PARTICIPATION BY THE USSR WAS IMPORTANT.

3. COMMISSIONER LARDINOIS SAID THAT, HAVING BEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD FOOD CONGRESS IN THE HAGUE IN 1970, HE WAS NOT TOO OPTIMISTIC. HE THOUGHT THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT TRY TO PALN FOR FIRM GOVERNMENTAL DECISIONS, EVEN ON STOCKPILING. EVEN A PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSION OF PRINCIPLES COULD RUN INTO TROUBLE SINCE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES TEND TO BE VERY MUCH INFLUENCED BY THE CURRENT STATE OF WORLD CONDITIONS, I.E., SUPPLY SCARCITY AT THIS TIME. THOUGH THE BUILDING OF STOCKPILES IS IMPORTANT, WE MUST REALIZE THAT NOW IS THE WORST TIME OF ALL TO TALK ABOUT BUILDING UP STOCKS AND THAT THE US AND THE COMMUNITY SHOULD COOPERATE TO RESTRAIN THOSE (E.G., LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BOERMA OF THE FAO) WHO WOULD TRY TO USE A WFC FOR OVERLY AMBITIOUS, UNREALISTIC AND INOPPORTUNE SCHEMES. #923;34, LARDINOIS SAID THAT SINCE THE US HAD PROPOSED THE CONFERENCE THE EC COMMISSION WOULD DO ITS PART TO TRY TO ASSURE THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS A SUCCESSFUL ONE, EVEN THOUGH HE HIMSELF WAS SKEPTICAL.

4. LARDINOIS BELIEVED THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD

NOT CONSIDER GRAINS ALONE. HE FELT THAT FATS AND OILS,
DAIRY PRODUCTS (SKIM MILK POWDER AND BUTTER)
AND SUGAR SHOULD ALSO BE TREATED AS
STAPLE FOODS. AMBASSADOR MARTIN ARGUED THAT SUGAR WAS
NOT A BASIC NUTRITIONAL NECESSITY THOUGH VERY IMPORTANT
AS A TRADE ITEM FOR MANY POOR COUNTRIES, CERTAINLY
MORE SO THAN MEAT, WHICH IS THE END PRODUCT OF 50 PERCENT
OF WORLD GRAIN PRODUCTION. AMBASSADOR MARTIN, THOUGH
DUBIOUS, SAID THAT THE US WOULD LOOK AGAIN AT THE SUGAR PROBLEM.

5. LARDINOIS REFERRED TO THE EC INTEREST IN WORLD
COMMODITY AGREEMENTS SAYING THAT THE REASON FOR
FAILURE OF PREVIOUS SUGAR AND GRAIN EFFORTS WAS THAT
THEY HAD NOT INCLUDED ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM NOR
HAD THEY BEEN ADOPTED BY A SUFFICIENT PORTION OF THE
WORLD TRADING COMMUNITY. FOR THE EC THE PRIME OBJECTIVE
OF ANY COMMODITY AGREEMENT WAS STABILITY AND HARMONY
IN WORLD MARKETS. PRICE LEVELS SHOULD NOT THEMSELVES
BE TARGETS OF SUCH ARRANGEMENTS BUT A RESULT.
GREENWALD

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